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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,100	06/14/2001	Andreas Birkner	016790-0407	3827

22428 7590 06/25/2003

FOLEY AND LARDNER  
SUITE 500  
3000 K STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

BRATLIE, STEVEN A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3652	

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	880100	BIRKNER, et al
Examiner	Group Art Unit	
BRATLIE	3652	

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

**Period for Response**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a response be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for response specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a response within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for response is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to respond within the set or extended period for response will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

**Status**

Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

Claim(s) 1,3-5, 7-11 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1,3-5, 7-11 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is  approved  disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)**

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All  Some\*  None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Attachment(s)**

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Action Summary**

1. Applicant's argument filed May 20, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. Applicant should note that claim language is given the broadest reasonable interpretation (spring window fashions LPV. Novo Industries, L.P. 65 USPQ 2d 1826,1830 (Feb. Cir. 2003)).

It is within the purview of 35 U.S.C. 103 to select features from the prior art to effect results expected from these features (In re Skoner et al, 186 USPQ 80). Moreover, in evaluating such references, it is proper to take into account not only the specific teachings of the references but also the inferences which one skilled in the art would reasonably be expected to draw therefrom (In re Preda 159 USPQ 342; In re Heldt 167 USPQ 676). The test for obviousness is not whether the feature of one reference may be bodily incorporated into the other to produce the claimed subject matter but simply what the combination of references makes obvious to one of ordinary skill in the pertinent art (In re Keller, 208 USPQ 871).

2. Determinations of obviousness take into account the collective teachings of the prior art and level of ordinary skill in the art. The claimed subject matter takes into account only knowledge which a person having ordinary skill in this art would find obvious with the references relied upon by the examiner (In re McLaughlin 170 USPQ 209). The issue of obviousness is not only determined by what the references expressly state but also is determined by what they would fairly suggest to those of ordinary skill in the art (In re Delisle 160 USPQ 806; In re Bozek 163 USPQ 545). It is noted that skill, not the converse, is presumed on the part of those practicing in the art (In re Sovish 226 USPQ 771) and the conclusion of obviousness can be made from

"common sense" of the person of ordinary skill in the art (*In re Bozek* 163 USPQ 545).

Since the claimed subject matter would have been obvious from the references, it is immaterial that the references do not state the problem or advantage ascribed by applicant (*In re Wiseman* 201 USPQ 658).

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

4. Claims 10 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The specification does not specifically recite substrates being passed through the kinematic coupling elements.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

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4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over George et al in view of Slocum et al and Babbs # 6,520,727. George et al discloses the use of Kinematic coupling #14, #15, #16, #17 to connect the modular units.

It is noted that Figs. 8 and 9 disclose module 1 having coupling #16 in two opposite walls that coact with coupling #17 on workstation #2. It is also noted, that coupling #15 are mounted on the sidewalls. George, et al lack kinematic pins and load locks. Slocum, et al discloses the use of kinematic pins. Babbs, et al discloses the use of modular load locks. It would have been obvious to a mechanic with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide these features to the primary reference. The motivation is the known substitution of equivalents.

8. An inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Bratlie whose telephone number is (703) 308-2669. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 6:30 to 5:00. Friday is the examiner's day off.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-4177.

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.



Bratlie/kn  
June 23, 2003

**STEVEN A. BRATLIE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**